

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

UNCLAS STATE 031415

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, HK

SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF HONG KONG DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION
PROJECT - MR. BENT WERBELL

REF: HONG KONG 14640

1. BASED ON RECOMMENDATION OF CCINC SUBCOMMITTEE ON PREVENTION AND TREATMENT, PROPOSED CONSULTATION OF MR. BENT WERBELL AS REQUESTED BY MR. PETER LEE, COMMISSIONER OF NARCOTICS, IS APPROVED. WERBELL, COMPUTER SYSTEMS MANAGER, NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, WILL ASSIST THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT IN DEVELOPING AN ADEQUATE REGISTRY SYSTEM FOR ADDICTS TO HELP MONITOR THE PROBLEM OF ADDICTION, ASSESS PRESENT EFFORTS, AND ASSIST IN PLANNING FUTURE POLICIES AND PROGRAMS.

2. WERBELL WILL EXAMINE THE STATISTICS CURRENTLY COLLECTED BY ALL HONG KONG GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES ENGAGED IN ANTI-NARCOTICS WORK, AND IN PARTICULAR
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THE CENTRAL REGISTER OF DRUG ADDICTS, AND THE MEANS BY WHICH THEY ARE COLLECTED AND PROCESSED, WITH A VIEW TOWARD:

(1) ENSURING A GREATER ACCURACY OF REPORTING OF THE ADDICT POPULATION, SO THAT THE ASSESSMENT OF TRENDS IN THE NATURE OF ADDICTION IN HONG KONG, AS WELL AS THE

NUMBERS INVOLVED, CAN BE DETERMINED MORE PRECISELY; (2) DEVISING EFFECTIVE MEANS OF MATCHING REPORTS ON ADDICTS, BASED ON IDENTIFYING INFORMATION, AND TO ADVISE ON PROGRAMMING WITH A VIEW TO ELIMINATING DUPLICATED RECORDS AND TO ACHIEVING BETTER DATA LINKAGE FOR SUBSEQUENT ANALYSIS; (3) DETERMINING THE FEASIBILITY OF CONVERTING THE EXISTING DATA IN THE CENTRAL REGISTER TO MORE EFFECTIVE SYSTEMS; (4) EVOLVING EFFICIENT WAYS OF MONITORING THE IMPACT OF LOCAL TREATMENT AND PREVENTION EFFORTS. WERBELL WILL REPORT TO THE SECRETARY OF SECURITY, HONG KONG, ON THE MOST COST-EFFECTIVE MEANS OF ACHIEVING THESE AIMS.

3. THE DURATION OF THE PROJECT IS ESTIMATED AT TWO AND ONE-HALF MONTHS. CCINC FUNDS NOT TO EXCEED DOLS 12,000 ARE AUTHORIZED FOR WERBELL'S AIR TRANSPORTATION, 75 DAYS PER DIEM, CONSULTANT FEE FOR 50 WORKING DAYS, AND SHARING OF LOCAL TRAVEL EXPENSES WITH THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT. THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT IS EXPECTED TO PROVIDE FACILITIES, COMPUTER TIME AND ANY OTHER SUPPORT NEEDED.

4. NIDA WILL MONITOR THE PROJECT AND SERVE AS EXECUTING AGENCY. THE PROJECT WILL BEGIN AT A TIME TO BE AGREED BETWEEN WERBELL AND AMCONSUL HONG KONG. INGERSOLL

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